

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 9-11 are amended. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 14-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims;

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's early indication of allowable subject matter. As indicated below, rather than rewriting any of objected-to claims 14-17 in independent form at this time, instead, each of independent claims 1 and 11 is amended to include a novel combination of elements not suggested by the cited references.

Therefore, independent claim 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicant's claim for foreign priority.

Drawings

Figure 15 is revised to include the label "BACKGROUND ART".

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and § 103(a)

Claim 1-7, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Livingston (U.S. 3,848,284);

claims 11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Livingston in view of Fulks (U.S. 6,161,496); and

claims 12, 13, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Livingston and further in view of Glass et al. (U.S. 4,205,408) These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 11

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a hull of a personal watercraft, including

a box-like member separately prepared to be added to a predetermined portion of said outer wall, the box-like member for supporting a drive shaft extending from an engine and a seat portion through which the drive shaft penetrates.

In addition, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of steps directed to a method of manufacturing a hull of a personal watercraft, including:

separately preparing a box-like member having a vertical surface with a hole for supporting a bearing of a drive shaft.

By contrast, Livingston FIGS. 1 merely disclose a ladder-shaped stringer 20, and Fulks merely discloses transom 20, which presumably is for mounting an outboard motor.

Thus, at least for the reasons above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements/method steps set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Livingston and Fulks.

Glass et al. cannot make up for the deficiencies of Livingston and Fulks.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 6, 9, and 10 are amended to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$110 is being filed concurrently herewith.

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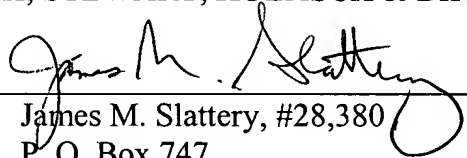
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

Figure 15 is revised to properly label this Figure as "BACKGROUND ART".

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.